



TO: Indiana State Board of Education
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
Center for Education and Career Innovation
RE: Extension of Freeway School Petitions
DATE: May 7, 2014

The Indiana Department of Education ("Department") and the Center for Education and Career Innovation ("CECI") are currently in the process of reviewing and updating the freeway accreditation process. The Department and CECI identified a need to formalize the freeway accreditation process to provide clarification regarding statutory requirements and contractual compliance. Specifically, the Department and CECI are collaborating to create a formal contract to be entered into by and between the Indiana State Board of Education ("Board") and the freeway school. The updated contract may alter some of the current practices associated with freeway accreditation. Please note that the Department and CECI will also be working with stakeholders before finalizing any processes.

Pursuant to Ind. Code §§ 20-26-15-11 and 12, the Board must annually review the performance of the freeway school and its compliance with the contract. If a school does not meet the performance requirements, or is out of compliance, then the Board may determine to cancel the freeway contract and revoke a school's status as a freeway school. Additionally, upon review, the Board may decide not to renew a freeway school's expiring contract.

The Department has identified many freeway school petitions that are set to expire at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Due to the pending changes to the freeway accreditation process, the Department and CECI jointly request that the Board agree to extend the petitions of freeway schools through the 2014-2015 school year. By extending the expiration of these petitions, current freeway schools will have an opportunity to adjust to any modifications in order to comply with the new contract.